TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

ALGERIA

Al Jumhuriyah al Jaza'iriyah a
Dimuqratiyah ash Shabiyah)

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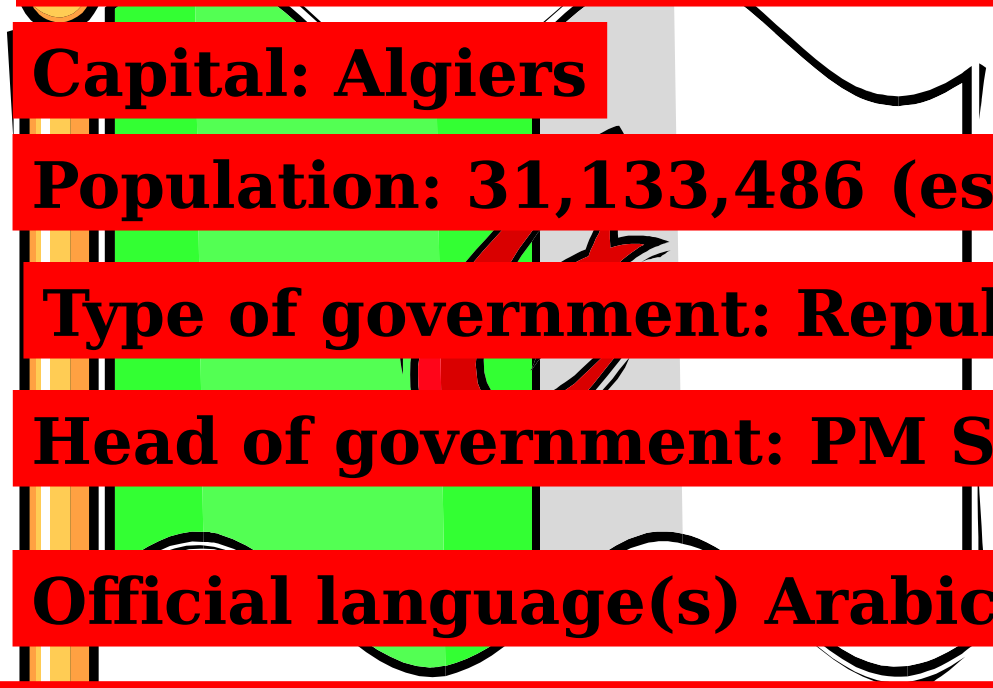
BACKGROUND

Full Name: Democratic and Popular Rep
Algeria



Capital: Algiers

Population: 31,133,486 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Smail Hamdan

Official language(s) Arabic

Economy: Centrally planned

Religions: Sunni Muslim (99%)

TRAVEL

INFORMATION

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Algiers

Flights from Frankfurt: Air Algeria

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: at 4 Chemin Cheikh Bachir El-Ibrahimi, B.P. 549 (Alger-Gare) 16000, Algiers Tel: 213-2-691-186/255/425 FAX: 213-2-693979 E-mail -

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

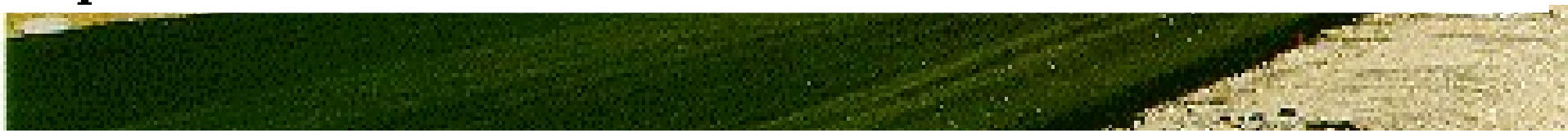
Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For official travel, a no-fee passport and visa are required.

Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice. Upon arrival, such personnel should notify USDAO of their presence in Algeria. Passports and visas are required for US citizens traveling to Algeria. Algerian embassies may not give visas to persons whose passports indicate travel to Israel. Customs officials must stamp Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.



Duty-free entry for personal effects: clothing, small typewriters, cameras, and reasonable amounts of tobacco. High tech equipment (such as fax machines and laptop computers) will be impounded unless accompanied by import

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Algeria is a republic and a developing economy. Facilities for travelers are widely available, but sometimes limited in quality. The workweek in Algeria is Saturday through Wednesday. The United States Department of State warns U.S. citizens to evaluate carefully the implications for their security and safety before deciding to travel to Algeria. Although the level of terrorist incidents in Algeria is lower than in recent years, unpredictable attacks continue to occur in crowded urban areas, in rural villages and roadsides, and on public transport. Declare personal firearms upon entry. Immediate registration is required. Importation of handguns is prohibited. No alcoholic beverages of any type may be consumed in any public place except where sold for that purpose. Use cameras with discretion. Do not use

Amembassy, USDAO, and Algerian government work week is Saturday thru Wednesday (closed Thursday and Friday).

permission.

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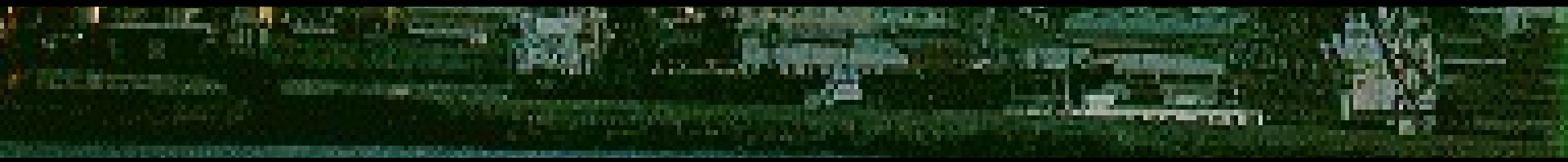
MONEY

Currency restrictions: Travelers checks and credit cards are acceptable in only a few establishments in urban areas. Declare all currency and ask for declaration form upon entry. Currency and declaration form may be inspected upon departure. All travelers are required by Algerian law to convert hard currency equivalent into 1000 Algerian dinar (approximately $200 US) during stay. Insure that currency declaration form is stamped when funds are converted. Do not convert funds in excess of the minimum required 1000 dinar unless dinar needed for in-country expenses. Funds may be converted at airport or major hotels. Excess dinar will not be reconverted into hard currency by Algerian government upon departure. Algerian dinar may not be exported or imported. .



Rate: Approximate: 76 Algerian Dinar for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, sand fly fever, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, and heat injuries .

Availability of medical services: Poor. Hospitals and clinics in Algeria are available, but limited in quality.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Algeria. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: Algeria is considered a cholera-infected area.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Algeria. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Drinking water and ice cubes are not safe. As a precaution, bottled water is recommended. Raw fruits and vegetables should be washed and peeled before eating. Minimize use of regularly scheduled commercial flights, be met and accompanied by pre-arranged local contacts upon arrival and departure at airports, and have armed protection while traveling overland. Nighttime travel outside the central urban areas should be strictly avoided. Visitors to the capital of Algiers should reside only in one of the several large, internationally recognized hotels where security is provided. U.S. citizens should not travel or walk anywhere in Algeria unless accompanied by a known Algerian companion. Although the Government of Algeria has discontinued a late-

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Banditry and assault involving foreigners often occur in the far southern region of Algeria near the border with Niger. Bandits have robbed, assaulted, kidnapped, and killed travelers in Algeria south of Tamanrasset. Travel overland is treacherous in many parts of Algeria. The Department of State recommends that American citizens in Algeria have substantial armed protection while traveling overland, on their work sites, and at their accommodations. The crime rate in Algeria is moderately high, and is increasing. Serious crimes have been reported in which armed men posing as police officers have entered homes of occupants, held them at gunpoint, and robbed them. Armed carjacking is also a serious problem. Petty theft and home burglary occur frequently. Theft of contents and parts from parked cars, pickpocketing, theft on trains and buses, theft of anything left in a hotel room, and purse snatching are common. Most residences of foreigners are protected by

Algeria is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession, use, or dealing in illegal drugs in Algeria are severe, and convicted

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is mandatory unless visiting Algerian government officials. Summer clothing recommended Apr-Oct, wool clothing recommended Nov-Mar. Rain gear is needed during winter months.

CURRENT EVENTS

Slightly more than 120 foreigners have been kidnapped and murdered in Algeria since September 1993, sometimes in assaults involving dozens of attackers. For example, in 1996, a group of seven Catholic monks (none U.S. citizens) residing some 300 miles southwest of Algiers were taken hostage and decapitated by a group of terrorists with whom the monks had had previous peaceful contact. Terrorists have threatened to kill all foreigners who do not leave Algeria. In response to these threats, the U.S. Government has substantially reduced the number of U.S. government personnel in Algeria. Dependents of U.S. Government personnel may not accompany employees to Algeria. An Air France flight was hijacked at Algiers Airport on December 24, 1994, by heavily armed terrorists who threatened to blow up the aircraft. The U.S. Embassy in Algiers has specifically identified ports, trains, and airline terminals as terrorist targets and warns against traveling on regularly scheduled commercial transport. U.S. Embassy personnel have suspended their use of regularly

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

ALGERIA